



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **DISTURBANCE AT STORKE PLAZITA**

#### ***Fight Call Leads to 3 Arrests***

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – 2/17/2012** – On 2/16/12 at 7:51 p.m., three officers were dispatched to Storke Plazita near 700 State Street on a fight call. The RP reported 6 male subjects fighting and a woman with a dark beanie being involved. As the officers tried to determine what had occurred, one of the participants in the fight named Andrew James Holmberg, age 20, was confrontational with the officers. He repeatedly cursed at them, puffed out his chest, and refused to stay an arm's reach away. He had been drinking, which may have intensified his resistance to maintain self-control. There were numerous other persons in the Plazita, some of whom were involved in the earlier disturbance. Due to Holmberg's agitated and confrontational state, the officers could not question people to determine the circumstances of the fight. Two officers tried to arrest Holmberg for interfering with the investigation. He resisted by holding out his arms and backing away in a circle to prevent being grabbed and placed under control. The female in the dark beanie, Melissa Margaret Kane, age 19, was yelling at the officers, and also moved within an arm's reach of them. She held a camera-phone and was filming the arrest and yelling. Two more officers arrived to assist, and saw that Kane was within one-to-two feet of the officers trying to arrest Holmberg. They told her that having her camera was OK, but she needed to get back. She remained 1-2 feet away from Holmberg and the officers. Holmberg was now in a seated position, but the officers did not have a hold of his arms or have him under control. The two additional officers told Kane to get back, but she would not. She seemed determined to remain within a very short distance and not follow orders to get back. In one of the involved officer's opinion, if Kane had moved back 10 feet, she would have been a safe distance away. Instead, her refusal to move back and heightened emotional state made her actions unpredictable and a danger. Her close presence and unpredictable actions interfered with the ability to safely arrest Holmberg, who turned out to be her boyfriend. Officers pulled her back, and arrested her for interfering with the arrest and investigation. Kane and Holmberg were both yelling, which attracted a crowd of about 100. Both suspects

were handcuffed and safely placed in police vehicles. No weapons were used to make the arrests. Two officers received minor scratches, and Kane had a minor scrape and a scratch. No one needed medical attention. Part of the arrest was captured by Kane's camera phone, which was retained as evidence. A third subject involved in the earlier fight/disturbance named David Schrader, age 29, was arrested for parole violation. Four officers not involved in the arrests obtained statements from by-standers and witnesses. Some witnesses remarked that the arrested suspects were part of a group that had been fighting amongst themselves and harassing passersby for hours.

*Contact: Lt. Donald McCaffrey*  
*Phone: 805-897-2376*  
*Email: DMcCaffreysantabarbaraca.gov*

###